

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 13, 14, 16-22 and 25-27 have been amended. No new matter has been entered. Therefore claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 13, 14, 16-22 and 25-27 are pending and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 26 and 27:

Applicants note that these claims have been amended to correct formal issues in the claims. These amendments are not intended to affect the scope of these claims and should not be understood to do so.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116:

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response because it is believed that the amendment of the claims places this application into condition for allowance and because the amendments should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added and since the amendments are well within what the Examiner should have understood the scope of the application to be.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 13, 14, 16-22 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Goto et al. in view of Mima et al. (JP 7-176162 A). These rejections are traversed.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1, applicants note that claim 1 recites a disk cartridge, comprising a member including "two substantially parallel extensions," wherein "a profile of the member in a longitudinal direction thereof includes one of a bulge and a depression on at least one lateral side of the member and wherein corresponding edges of the case are formed to fit around the profile of the member." Here, and for purposes of clarity, applicants note that the claimed profile is claimed so as to inherently include the claimed, "end to form a bridge," in the claimed structural description of the member. In other words, the claimed, "end" is included in the profile of the member.

Applicants assert that neither of the above noted recitations is disclosed by either of the cited references separately or in combination. With reference to Goto, this assertion is clearly

true because, as was discussed in the previous response, Goto does not disclose the member, including the "end to form a bridge," as claimed. Thus, it follows that Goto cannot disclose a profile of the members 13 and 14 of Goto that bears any resemblance to the claimed profile since Goto does not include the claimed, "end to form a bridge."

With reference to Mima, it is noted that while Mima discloses an end that appears to form a bridge between the dust prevention cover members, the profile of the cover is rectangular. In other words, where the claimed profile includes one of a bulge and a depression, no such bulge or depression is present in the reference to Mima.

Therefore, since neither reference discloses the invention of claim 1, applicants assert that claim 1 is patentably distinguished from any combination of the references. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 is believed to be overcome.

Regarding the rejections of claims 13, 19 and 25, it is noted that these claims recite some similar features as set forth above regarding claim 1 and that, thus, these claims are also patentably distinguished from the references for at least the reasons set forth above. Thus, the rejections of claims 13 and 25 are also believed to be overcome.

Regarding the rejections of claims 2, 4, 5, 6-10, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 26 and 27, it is noted that these claims depend from claims 1, 13, 19 and 25, respectively, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Thus, the rejections of these claims are also believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

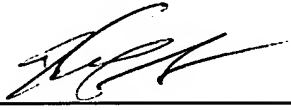
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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